

ALIVE JULY 18

REITERATION OF PREVIOUS REPORTS FROM CHINESE SOURCES.

Mr. Sheng Again Says All Foreign Ministers in Peking, Except the German, Were Safe Last Week.

TO BE SENT TO TIEN-TSIN

IN THE HOPE THAT THE WRATH OF THE POWERS WILL BE APPEASED.

Dispatch Received by the Chinese Minister at London, and Given to the Press Late Last Night.

ANOTHER CONFLICTING STORY

ALL FOREIGNERS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN SLAUGHTERED.

Big Guns Turned Loose on the Legations and Fired Until the Occupants Had Succumbed.

BRITONS STILL SKEPTICAL

PLACING NO FAITH IN STATEMENTS MADE BY CHINESE OFFICIALS.

Mr. Broderick's Explanation in the House of Commons—Anxious to Hear from MacDonald.

LONDON, July 24, 4 a. m.—The Chinese minister, Sir Chih Chen Lo Feng Luh, has communicated to the press the following dispatch from Sheng, director general of Chinese railways and telegraphs and postal of Shanghai, dated Shanghai, July 23:

"Information from Peking, dated July 18, says that the Tsung Li Yamen deputed Won Jui, an under secretary of the department, to see the foreign ministers, and he found every one well, without any missing, the German excepted.

"General Yung Lu is going to memorialize the throne to send them all under escort to Tien-Tsin, in the hope that the military operations will then be stopped."

Shortly before the foregoing was made public Sir Halliday MacArthur, counselor and English secretary to the Chinese legation in London, asserted that the Peking legations were safe and about to proceed to Tien-Tsin. On the other hand, the Shanghai correspondent of the Daily Mail, telegraphing July 23, says:

"A letter from a Chinese official in Shan-Tung has been received by a native functionary here, containing the following passages: 'At the beginning of the month the foreign ministers made several attempts to send messages out of Peking, but, thanks to the strict watch kept on the city, the bearers were all caught and executed. On the 4th instant only 400 foreigners, much exhausted, were left alive in Peking, and one night, when the big guns were incessantly fired, it was known that all the legations and foreigners were finished, although pretended telegrams contradict these facts.'"

RUSSIANS NOT HARMONIOUS.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Daily Mail asserts that there are differences of opinion in the Russian council of war. The minister of war, General Kouropatkin, wishes to send one hundred thousand men to clear the rebels out of Manchuria. On the other hand, according to this correspondent, Emperor Nicholas wishes the operations limited to the defense and pacification of the frontier districts. Let two strong armies, one of the allies in the south and the Russians in the north confront the Chinese and the rising so the czar is said to argue, would be bound to collapse. "We want no conquests," he is reported to have declared at the conclusion of a sitting of the council. "What we desire is to protect our frontiers and to steer into smooth waters the Chinese ship of state, now buffeted by the waves of civil war."

There is nothing further this morning that throws any light upon the mysterious situation. Two urgent dispatches were addressed yesterday by the Chinese minister to the Peking government and to the director of telegraph administration strongly advocating the necessity of restoring telegraphic communication with a view of enabling the powers to obtain proof of the safety of the foreign ministers. Until such proofs are secured, no one here is inclined to alter the opinion that the Chinese are merely juggling to gain time.

Rumor circulates briskly around the personality of Li Hung Chang. He is credited with a mission to offer to cede to the allied powers two provinces as indemnity for the Peking outrages and also to offer to restore order and to give facilities for trade with the outside world on condition of the surrender of Kiao-Chow, Wei-Hai-Wei and Manchuria by the

powers, and the withdrawal of all missionaries. Little attention, however, need be paid these rumors.

LI HUNG CHANG'S MISSION. In a private message from Shanghai, it is asserted that Li Hung Chang, avows that the object of his journey is to place the regular Chinese army in line with the allied troops for the suppression of the Boxers.

The Times editorially suggests that Li Hung Chang is playing the old game of the Sublime Porte by putting forward proposals which will appear in different degrees and ways to different powers. It says: "President McKinley has been asked to mediate and the request is facilitated by the care which has been taken in Washington not to commit the United States to any very thoroughgoing policy."

Indian troops are daily arriving at Hong-Kong. Three transports reached there yesterday and two others have left Hong-Kong for Taku.

Reports from Canton say the city is outwardly quiet, but that there is a strong undercurrent of unrest among the Chinese. Only a few European ladies have left, many still remaining.

St. Petersburg dispatches represent the situation in Manchuria as far more serious than had been supposed. It is asserted that the Chinese have occupied Hallar, where the Russian railway staff is surrounded and in desperate straits. According to the St. Petersburg correspondent of the Times, General Kouropatkin, the Russian minister of war, will probably become commander-in-chief of the Russian forces in China and will presumably take command of the allied troops.

A French Consul's Report. PARIS, July 23.—M. Delcasse, minister of foreign affairs, has received a telegram from the French consul at Che-Poo, dated July 21, saying: "The governor informs me that, according to reliable news from Peking, all the foreign ministers are safe, and the government is taking all necessary steps to deliver and protect them."

Belgians Want Direct News. BRUSSELS, July 23.—In reply to the demand from the Belgian government the Chinese charge d'affaires says he has telegraphed indirectly to the Tsung Li Yamen with a view of placing the Belgian minister at Peking, Baron De Vinck, in communication with Belgium.

WANT TO HEAR FROM McDONALD. British Officials Do Not Believe Statements Made by Chinese.

LONDON, July 23.—In the House of Commons to-day the parliamentary secretary of the Foreign Office, William St. John Broderick, communicated certain statements of the Chinese authorities with regard to the safety of the legations at Peking, and said the Chinese minister declared them to be untrue. Mr. Broderick read the text of the several edicts of July 18. Commenting on Minister Conger's dispatch to the Department of State of the United States, Mr. Broderick said that, though the dispatch was of the same date as the edicts' assurance of safety, the latter was not borne out by Mr. Conger. Consul Warren had telegraphed to the governor of Shan-Tung to know how a message from Peking reached him in two days, and why there was no message from their foreign minister, Sir Claude MacDonald. The governor had replied that the United States minister's message was sent by the Tsung Li Yamen (Chinese Foreign Office) by a messenger traveling 600 li (roughly 200 English miles) a day. (Li is a Chinese mile.) "I assure you," the Governor of Shan-Tung had added, "there is no telegraphic communication. I cannot explain why MacDonald has not telegraphed, but I beg you not to be anxious about the ministers, for they and the others are all living and unhurt. Of this I've already had several reliable messages."

Mr. Broderick continued: "Seeing that over a month has elapsed since any communication reached the government from the British legation, and the Tsung Li Yamen is communicating by messenger with various Chinese authorities, her Majesty's government feels that it cannot give credence to any statement or decrees attributed to the Emperor or his government, unless they are fortified by letters signed and dated by Sir Claude MacDonald or other English officials, or by some cablegram in our cipher."

According to the translation read by Mr. Broderick, the imperial edict opens as follows: "In the Confucian philosophy, 'spring and autumn,' it is written, envoys should not be killed. How, then, can it be supposed that the throne is to be convulsed at allowing people and troops to vent their wrath on foreign ministers?" The edict then gives the assurance already made known to the public.

In the House of Commons to-day the secretary of state for India, Lord George Hamilton, announced that the maharajah of Gwalior had offered the government a fully equipped hospital ship, upon which it is proposed to spend twenty lakhs of rupees to be used in China, as a mark of deep loyalty to the Queen. The offer was accepted. Lord George Hamilton also testified to the government's great appreciation of the generosity of those who are sending the Maine to China.

The House of Lords this evening passed its second reading the bill empowering the Queen to prohibit the exportation of arms and ammunition or either to any country where there is reason to believe that these or others may be used against the British forces or foreign forces co-operating with them."

DOUBT THE CONGER DISPATCH.

Germans Think It Was Forged—America's Policy Criticized.

BERLIN, July 23.—The Berlin government and press continue to disbelieve the assurances of the Chinese authorities that the Peking legations are safe. The foreign office surmises that the Conger dispatch was either sent simultaneously with the dispatches of Dr. Von Bergen, secretary of the German legation, and Sir Rivet Hart, but surmises that it was entrusted to the messenger to which it was entrusted and is now produced to create the desired effect in Washington, or, on the other hand, that the whole dispatch was conceived for purposes of deception, with the aid of a cipher key somehow obtained. United States Ambassador White said to-day that the latter theory was quite plausible and that the American legation had been captured and the records there seized, the cipher key would likewise be secured and then it would be an easy matter for anybody to do the rest. At all events the German foreign office will continue to regard the report that the legations still exist as a myth until communication now cut off for nearly a month, shall have been re-established in the most undoubted fashion.

No Peking or other important China news has arrived to-day and the question

FURY OF A MOB

VENTED ON THE ASSAULT OF A THIRTEEN-YEAR-OLD GIRL.

Elijah Clark, a Negro, Taken from Jail at Huntsville, Ala., and Lynched After Identification.

DEFENDED BY THE SHERIFF

WHO WAS FINALLY SMOKED OUT BY THE CROWD OF AVENGERS.

Tar, Feathers and Oil Set Ablaze in the Jail and the Sheriff Overcome by the Fumes.

MAN DANGEROUSLY WOUNDED

WHILE THE MOB WAS ATTEMPTING TO SECURE THE PRISONER.

Militia Summoned, and Arrived Just as the Body of the Negro Was Riddled with Bullets.

HUNTSVILLE, Ala., July 23.—Elijah Clark, a negro, who yesterday assaulted Susan Priest, a thirteen-year-old girl, was taken from the jail in this city to-night and lynched near the spot where his crime was committed. His body was riddled with bullets. Sheriff Fulgham defended his prisoner to the last, but a dense smoke, from a combination of tar, feathers and oil fired by the crazed mob was too much for him and he was dragged from the jail and placed under a physician's care. William Vining, who attempted to rush through the crowd and up the jail steps was shot and dangerously wounded.

A crowd of 150 men, principally employees of the cotton mills at Dallas, a suburb of this city, searched the woods all night for Clark, who was identified at the time he assaulted Miss Priest, by her little sister. No success attended their efforts, and early this morning Sheriff Fulgham started out with a posse and before 9 o'clock had captured Clark on Beaverdam creek, ten miles from Huntsville. He was soon landed in jail and by 1 o'clock the news of the prisoner's capture was abroad. A mob was soon formed and marched to the jail. Sheriff Fulgham seeing that he had a desperate crowd to combat, wired Governor Johnston the facts in the case. The Governor responded to the effect that he had ordered the militia at Birmingham, Montgomery and Decatur to proceed with all haste to the scene. The sheriff then telephoned Judge S. M. Stuart and asked for an immediate trial of the negro and the judge replied soon after that he had arranged for a special session of court at 3 o'clock before Judge H. C. Speake. The mob by this time had assumed alarming proportions and the sheriff thinking to quiet it, appeared at a window and announced that a special court had been arranged for the prisoner for 3 p. m. This was greeted with jeers by the crowd and the cry "revenge" went up.

DOOR BATTERED IN.

The outer door to the jail, a wooden barrier, was then attacked and soon battered down, the mob gaining entrance to the first floor. They gathered in the sheriff's wife, who pleaded with them to refrain from violence and let the law take its course. Sheriff Fulgham, however, on hearing the door being forced, retreated with his prisoner to the third floor, where he locked himself in with Clark. The mob then stopped to devise ways and means of securing the prisoner without doing harm to the sheriff. A dozen times the sheriff as he appeared at the window, waving his hands to the mob to go away, could have been shot, but the lynchers chose strategy as the most effective way out of the difficulty.

A large amount of tar, feathers and oil was secured and piled up on the cement floor of the jail and a match applied. A suffocating smoke arose and spread quickly throughout the jail. The sheriff again retreated to the corner farthest from the burning pile, taking his prisoner with him. More tar and feathers were brought in and ignited. The sheriff was seen to disappear from the window and the mob waited. He was taken by a man and Chief of Police David Overton broke through the crowd and up the stairs through the blinding and suffocating smoke. Reaching the third floor he found Sheriff Fulgham in a semi-conscious condition. The sheriff was dragged to a window, where the air partly revived him.

"Come out of here, Fulgham, you will be suffocated," said the captors. "No, Dave," feebly responded Fulgham, "I will stay here. I will die doing my duty."

SHERIFF DRAGGED OUT.

The chief of police dragged the half-conscious man down the two flights of stairs into the street. He was quickly taken to the City Hall and doctors summoned. The sheriff's departure was the signal for the mob to proceed with its work, and it quickly took complete possession of the jail. It required fully an hour to break the lock to the cell in which the negro was confined, but as soon as this was accomplished the mob broke through the door and quickly appeared with him on the front steps of the jail. One of the mob then sprang up the steps and turning to the crowd, begged all persons to put up their pistols and handle their guns with care in order to prevent any more bloodshed. This suggestion was adopted by the crowd and the negro was started down the steps. A plowline was placed around his neck and guarded by twenty heavily armed men in furs, he was dragged out of the jail yard and down Clinton street the shouting and cheering mob led the victim, followed by fully 1,500 people.

Clark was hustled quickly to Dallas and then to the home of his victim. Here he was taken before the jury and positively identified. The identification complete, Clark collapsed and had to be borne on the shoulders of his captors. Moore's

Grove was soon reached. The rope around Clark's neck was thrown over the limb of an immense tree by Miss Priest's brother, and there the negro was placed across the back of a horse, which was led out from under him. The body fell three feet and as it dangled in the air a hundred bullets were fired into it.

Just as the work was finished the Decatur militia arrived at Huntsville. Work at the mills in Dallas was suspended for the day.

NAPHTHA LAUNCH WRECKED.

Mother and Son Killed by Explosion and Father Dangerously Injured.

NEW YORK, July 23.—By an explosion of a naphtha launch on Long Island sound to-night Mrs. A. E. Crowe and her sixteen-year-old son Clinton were instantly killed, and A. E. Crowe, perhaps, fatally injured. Mrs. Crowe and her son were frightfully mangled. Mr. Crowe was hurled into the water. His thigh was fractured, and he was internally injured, and it is believed, fatally. Mr. Crowe is a wealthy resident of New Rochelle and a member of the New Rochelle Yacht Club.

The explosion was heard for several miles. The boat was torn to pieces. The launch was a thirty-foot craft, finely finished.

This afternoon Mr. Crow and his wife and younger son went out in the launch to witness the Larchmont regatta. They were on their way home and the launch was at its full speed. When off the residence of C. Oliver Iselin, the explosion occurred. The bodies of Mrs. Crow and the boy were fearfully mangled.

Burned by Gasoline.

CHICAGO, July 23.—Two girls are dead and two men were badly burned as the result of a gasoline explosion at 331 North Franklin street last evening. The dead are: Margaret Poch, aged eleven, and Anna Poch, aged seventeen. The injured are: Gustave Kropfer, scorched on the face and hands in trying to rescue Anna Poch, and John Moore, face and hands burned.

BRAVE CAPT. MCALLA

HOW THE GALLANT OFFICER RESPONDED TO A CALL FOR AID.

Led in the Effort to Relieve the Ministers at Peking—Letter from Rev. G. D. Wilder.

BOSTON, July 23.—The American board has received a letter from Rev. George D. Wilder, dated Tien-Tsin, June 12, which gives details concerning the outbreak of the Boxer movement and makes known the readiness and determination with which Captain McCalla, of the United States navy responded to the call for aid. Rev. Mr. Wilder says:

"The Boxer movement has reached a climax. Murder and arson are filling the province from Kiangsu to Peking. Apparently Tien-Tsin, Peking and Pao-Ting-Fu as a result of the Boxer movement, in the triangle many minor outbreaks were committed on Catholics and Protestants during May, and great numbers of Boxers assembled. At the last of the month the word came down from the throne for them to 'create disorder,' as rapidly as possible. They gathered in great force north of Cho-Chou and on Monday morning, May 8, began work, burning the railroad stations of Lin-Lih, Chang-Hsin-Tien and Lu-Kou-Chiao that day. Two men, a woman and a child were brutally murdered. The Boxers went on looting station after station on the line from Tien-Tsin to Peking.

"We reported to the consul and he sent for troops. The Japanese landed a few on Tuesday afternoon and the Newark sent us 115 marines and blue jackets and two machine guns and a three-inch cannon under the energetic lead of grand old Captain McCalla. The railway refusing to bring them, they came on by tug and lighter, reaching us Tuesday night. All nationalities gave them a rousing reception. Their prompt arrival doubtless prevented an attack on the settlement by thousands of Boxers. In two or three days other nationalities arrived, and Tien-Tsin was protected. But alas for those in the interior?"

"After the train stopped tramping appeals came for protection to the ministers at Peking. Last Sunday night the various consuls here had a stormy meeting until midnight. The French and Russian representatives bitterly opposed sending troops to relieve Peking. They withdrew for consultation several times. Consul Carls (British) held steadily for that action, backed by the American and Japanese consuls. Finally Captain McCalla said: 'I have talked a good deal. Now I will tell you what I will do. Our minister telegraphs that he is in danger. It matters not what others do or do not do. My entire force of blue jackets will take a train and start for Peking to-morrow morning.'"

"The British, Japanese and Germans followed this lead, the French and Russians refusing. But the next morning, when the train was made up, they sent in large Chinese ammunition. Two thousand Cosacks and five hundred British are marching overland from Pao-Ting-Ho, we are told. 'The victory was in consultation with four Boxer representatives on Saturday, and is said to have secured their promise not to massacre foreigners at Pao-Ting-Fu.'"

BATTLE IN COLOMBIA.

Insurgents Defeated and Many Prisoners Taken by the Government.

CARACAS, Venezuela, July 23.—In consequence of the last defeats sustained by the rebels the Colombian revolution is now considered lost. The government troops have again occupied Bucaramanga and Cucuta, after a bloody battle, in which many prisoners were captured.

URGING HASTE

UNITED STATES ANXIOUS TO PUSH AN ARMY INTO PEKING.

Admiral Remy Now at Tien-Tsin Trying to Expedite the Proposed Relief Expedition.

NO CHANCES TO BE TAKEN

WHILE PROFESSING FAITH IN THE SINCERITY OF CHINESE.

The Administration Is Determined to Solve the Peking Mystery as Soon as Possible.

CHAPFEE TO HAVE 4,000 MEN

ADDITIONAL TROOPS TO ARRIVE AT TAKU THIS WEEK.

Three Well-Known Officers on His Staff—Guns Captured by Anglo-Americans—Seymour's Report.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

WASHINGTON, July 23.—The administration continues to express faith in the genuineness of the alleged dispatch from Minister Conger, and is vigorously pushing measures for his relief and for that purpose Admiral Remy is now in Tien-Tsin. The appeal from the Chinese Emperor asking the good offices of this country in behalf of the flowery kingdom, and the President's reply, to be made public to-morrow will not affect the preparations under way for succoring the imprisoned legationaries. It is probable that the President will demand that hereafter all correspondence between the Chinese and his government pass through the hands of the American minister at Peking. This would help solve the problem of the situation which remains as mysterious as ever.

As stated Secretary Hay continues to express faith in the genuineness of the Conger dispatch, a faith that is not shared by the European governments and is not felt here outside of official circles. Yet even those who look upon that dispatch with profound suspicion do not profess to understand the possible motives the Chinese may have for proclaiming the safety of the foreign ministers if they are really dead, while admitting the death of the German minister. The course of the administration in assuming that the Chinese government is acting in good faith, until the contrary is proved, is generally condemned. While the administration is doing this it is losing no time in rushing forward with all possible speed such military reinforcements as are available. Nor will it abandon or abate its claims for separation when the time for settlement comes because it has shown a disposition to act towards the Chinese government the same as it did towards any European government. In fact it strengthens the administration cause by the course it is pursuing. If the Chinese government is acting in good faith it will feel grateful to this government for protecting on that basis, and if it is not so acting, it will leave this government a perfectly free hand when the day of reckoning arrives. In either case the administration has nothing with which to reproach itself nor for which it can justly or consistently be reproached.

REMY AT TIEN-TSIN.

Important News Expected from the Admiral Before Long.

WASHINGTON, July 23.—The Bureau of Navigation this morning received the following cablegram from Admiral Remy at Taku: "Going to Tien-Tsin to-day to look into matters, leaving senior officer here. Newark gone to Nagasaki for docking." This message is attributed to the receipt by Admiral Remy of Secretary Long's urgent message to hasten the efforts to get to Peking, and important news from him is expected soon.

It is unknown to the State Department even yet who is to command the international relief column on its march to Peking, which begins the end of this month. News dispatches of late date have assigned the command to one of two Russian generals—Dragomiroff and Linievich. The State Department knows nothing of this, but it has been assumed that in the possible event of the failure of the international force to agree among themselves on any other basis, the Japanese field marshal, Kuroki, would command by virtue of seniority and rank.

The War Department is considering the advisability of sending the Hancock, which sailed from San Francisco July 23, with batteries of artillery and five hundred marines, direct to Taku, instead of to Nagasaki. These troops were to have gone on the Meade, which sails Aug. 1, but it is now decided, on account of the urgent necessity of getting reinforcements to China, to have the Hancock make a special trip. They will carry stores and provisions only for the troops in China. The Meade, on the 1st proximo, will take out one battalion of the Fifteenth Infantry, one squadron of the Third Cavalry and one company of engineers from West Point, in all 1,121 men and sixty officers. The Garonne, carrying two squadrons of the First Cavalry and one hundred recruits, thirty-five officers and 550 men, will sail from Seattle the same day for Nagasaki. The place of the Hancock, which was originally scheduled to sail Aug. 15, will be taken by the Warren if she arrives at San Francisco in time. She will take out two squadrons of the Ninth Cavalry and recruits, in all forty-two officers and 1,242 men.

EIGHT LARGE GUNS CAPTURED.

Brilliant Dash by a Force of Americans and British.

NEW YORK, July 23.—A dispatch to the Journal and Advertiser from Che-Poo, July 23, says: "A brilliant dash against a large force of Chinese at Tien-Tsin, was made this morning by a detachment of American troops, assisted by some English Fusiliers. The object was to capture a battery of large caliber cannon which had been doing great damage. The Anglo-American troops charged a large fort across an open space and were exposed to a hot, but poorly directed fire from the enemy. They dashed

into the fort and after engaging the Chinese in a sharp hand-to-hand fight, put them to flight and remained masters of the fort. Eight large modern guns were captured, together with carts and all the accessories. The battery was immediately turned upon the fleeing enemy, who under the well directed fire suffered heavy losses. The victory was won in an incredibly short time against an overwhelmingly superior force, and despite the charge under fire and the fight in the fort, neither the Americans nor the British lost a single man. The Chinese army is now retreating toward Peking."

CAPTURE OF TAKU FORTS.

The Battle Described by an Officer of a British Warship.

NEW YORK, July 23.—An officer of her Majesty's ship, the Barfleur, writing from Taku, under date of June 18 last, says: "On Saturday the admirals met on board the Russian flagship and determined that the Taku forts must be taken. The Chinese in them were informed that they must give up by 2 o'clock on Sunday or they would be attacked. Five gunboats were all the force available, the fleets being unable to get near enough. They were the Russian Gobre and Horeetz, the German Illis, the French Leon and Edgar, and the Chinese two British destroyers, the Faine and the Whiting were also available. The Algeine had had a most trying time having been anchored for days under the guns of a fort capable of annihilating her at one discharge. The gunboats were in the river and consequently could not get up behind the forts which are chiefly planned to fire seaward. But it was known that the Chinese had mounted cannons to fire landward."

On Saturday afternoon a little more than 1,000 men were taken from the fleets and conveyed up the river in tugs, the Chinese foolishly allowing them to pass the forts. The boats were then anchored in the fighting commenced and making their way across the country, stormed the forts from the rear. It was a bright moonlight night. The Chinese opened fire at 1 o'clock a. m. The gun and torpedo boats moved directly to the part of the river settled on beforehand, and there, keeping in motion, engaged the forts. The two British destroyers went directly to the Chinese torpedo depot, where four torpedo boats were lying. Each destroyer towed an armed boat and they were thus able to board all four Chinese boats at the same time, overpower their crews and secure them. They then towed the boats to the shore above Taku, allowing the illis to come down. All night a tremendous fire went on, and at 6 o'clock it seemed we would win, but just after 6 the new south fort blew up with a terrific explosion, shaking us like an earthquake. The south fort still kept firing, but at 8 o'clock it was silent. What had happened during the night was that the British and Japanese landing party had captured the large north batteries by 4 o'clock and then turned those guns on the south forts.

"Strange to say, the gunboats suffered very little; the shot passing over them did more damage at Taku-Ku than to them. One Russian boat was damaged, but it was put out of action, had a boiler exploded and nearly sank. The Whiting was pierced and lost a gun, but was not sunk. A 5-inch shell being found lying in the bent tubes of her starboard after boiler. Three officers and four men were wounded on board the Algeine, and the Japanese commander on shore was killed and the captain of the illis had one foot shot. He is now recovering and getting on well now. The illis also lost her second lieutenant and five men. The killed on board the Russian Gobre was a second lieutenant. Chinese fired shell that burst the losses would have been very different, but either they did not see the shell or else it was shell that seldom burst.

"A Chinese cruiser forms part of the fleet in the bay, and she dared she could do great mischief in the fleet, for the ships, though new, were old-fashioned and very helpless. She has now been taken possession of by the Germans and her guns have been disabled."

What Missionaries Saw at Taku.

WICHITA, Kan., July 23.—A letter from Dr. Pruett, a missionary in China, has just reached his mother, who lives in this city. The letter, which is dated Shanghai, June 22, says:

"Mrs. Mills (an English lady) arrived here yesterday from Tien-Tsin. She tells us that after the two thousand Russians had repulsed an attack on the settlement of Chinese soldiers, the Chinese ordered all women and children to leave Tien-Tsin. The Mills family did so. The steamer in which they came down the river reached Taku just in time for the bombardment of the forts, so the ladies had to crouch beneath gnath grass in order to avoid the shells. Presently from a few of the thirty gunboats they saw the British and Japanese land, and they rushed forward and seized one of the forts, then the others fell into the hands of Russia and Germany."

DID NOT KILL WOUNDED.

Admiral Seymour's Report on the Peking Relief Expedition.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., July 23.—There is nothing in the extreme report of Admiral Seymour, which has been received here to-day by the American Maru, to prove the sensational story circulated early this month, that Admiral Seymour, who commanded the Peking relief expedition, killed his wounded to save them from the Chinese. Commander S. W. Very, U. S. N., who returned from the Orient on the steamer, and others who were at Hong-Kong, when Admiral Seymour returned from Tien-Tsin, did not hear the story and the admiral's report, which is an elaboration of the cablegram published on the 26th of June, makes not the slightest mention of the affair, but, on the contrary, goes into particulars of the bravery of the allies in guarding the wounded, who were placed in flatboats and towed down the river by detachments of soldiers and marines while the main body of the troops fought the Chinese off with rifles and Maxim guns.

In the fight at Lang-Fang, where the Boxers attacked the forces with great vigor twice, the Italian contingent bore the brunt of the fighting on the right flank, and lost five men killed and a number wounded. The Chinese retreated, leaving a large number of dead on the field. In the afternoon a detail of British marines stationed to guard the railroad house at Lang-Fang, were attacked and reinforcements had to be rushed forward to save them. It was in this engagement that the enemy lost about one hundred killed, which was mentioned in the telegraphic report, and two British blue jackets were wounded. As advanced was then sent. Ren-Ting, where a halt had to be made, as the tracks for miles had been torn up. The Chinese advanced in great numbers, and a desperate battle was fought. The column fell back to Yong-Song, that the rest of the trip might be made by stream. Seymour then said:

Prior to our departure from Lang-Fang, I ordered two trains to stop there in order to enable part of our men to proceed later, but these trains were attacked after my departure by the Boxers and the Chinese troops, who had come from Peking, and fighting ensued. In the course of which 40 to 50 were killed and the enemy's side and six of our men were killed and forty-eight wounded. At Yong-Song I was joined by the men who came down there in three trains. All the trains were completely destroyed and not a single one could be used for further work. Moreover, the want of provisions, together with the presence of numerous wounded soldiers, compelled us to retreat to Tien-Tsin. Communication with Tien-Tsin remained entirely suspended for six days, and accordingly we were deprived of the means of obtaining supplies. We accordingly marched back, though constantly attacked by the enemy

REPLY TO CHINA

PRESIDENT HAS LISTENED TO THE APPEAL FOR MEDIATION.

And Will Tender the Good Offices of the United States in the Interest of Peace in the Orient.

CONDITIONS ARE LAID DOWN

WHICH MUST FIRST BE ACCEPTED BY THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT.

McKinley and His Advisers Proceeding on the Belief that the Legationaries Are Still Alive.

ANSWER NOT YET MADE PUBLIC

BOTH IT AND THE APPEAL TO BE GIVEN OUT TO-DAY.

Action of the United States Likely to Be Criticized by the Governments of Europe.

MESSAGE FROM MR. GOODNOW

REPEATING A CHINESE STATEMENT THAT MR. CONGER IS WELL.

Telegraphic Error in the Name That Destroys the Value of the News—Text of Latest Imperial Edict.

WASHINGTON, July 23.—The President has listened to the appeal of the Chinese government as transmitted through Minister Wu, and has signified his willingness to mediate between the imperial government and the powers, but only on conditions which first must be met by the Chinese government. The exact nature of the terms proposed by the State Department cannot be stated until to-morrow, when publication will be made of the text of the Chinese appeal and of the President's message. It is known, however, that the answer is entirely consistent with the statement of principles laid down by Secretary Hay in his identical note to the powers, and, moreover, it accepts as truthful the Chinese statement relative to the safety of the foreign ministers at Peking.

It would not, of course, be possible to take even the initial steps toward mediation were either party to the negotiations to entertain openly any distrust of the accuracy of the statements of the other. There must be confidence between them. The answer of the United States does not go to the length of the French answer to a similar appeal in laying down conditions which the Chinese government could not meet even if so disposed, if it is actually struggling for existence. It does, however, look to the immediate relief of the foreigners in Peking, and, moreover, to the protection of all foreigners, missionaries and traders in China, and to the restoration of order. The Chinese appeal came to Secretary Hay yesterday through Minister Wu. The secretary promptly telegraphed it to the President at Canton, and after taking a full day for its consideration the President's answer came this afternoon to the State Department. It was put in the proper diplomatic form and a copy delivered to Minister Wu, who is to forward it to his own government. Appeal and answer will be made public here to-morrow.

FIRST STEP TAKEN.

The imperial edict made public to-day at the State Department shows that the imperial government already has taken the first steps toward doing what the United States government requires as the principal condition of its exercise of its good offices in enjoining the viceroys, magistrates and leading men to stop the disorders and protect foreigners. Our government will await the result of this before proceeding further.

It is expected that adverse criticism on the action of the State Department in this matter will be heard from Europe, where the governments are acting on the belief that all of the foreign ministers in Peking have perished, but our government, nevertheless, regards its course as the correct one. All of the European governments have taken the stand before indicated. The last of the answers to Secretary Hay's note reciting the Conger message have come, and all of them, in terms polite and diplomatic, express utter incredulity in the authenticity of the Conger message. Consul General Goodnow, himself a man of good judgment, also called a warning to Secretary Hay against the acceptance of the message without confirmation. But the State Department has fully considered the message in all of its aspects, has carefully weighed the numerous objections and suspicions put forth here and in Europe, and, without guaranteeing the authenticity of the message, feels it to be a matter of prime duty to act on the theory that it is genuine.

The Goodnow cablegram reciting the message from Prince Tuan as vouching for the safety of the foreign ministers on July 18 caused a ripple of excitement for a time at the State Department, but the officials soon concluded from the context and other circumstances surrounding the message that Yuan was meant instead of Tuan, so that the message lost the value it would have had if it had come from the redoubtable Boxer leader.

Both the State Department and the Chinese officials took occasion early in the day to deny a report that plans were on